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U.S.S.N. 11/434,537

4

Docket No. 81046000

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REMARKS

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The final Office Action dated May 7, 2007 has been carefully reviewed. Claims 1-7 remain in the application. It is respectfully requested the Examiner reconsider the present application in light of the remarks herein.

The Examiner maintained the rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Song in view of Heinrich. The Examiner was not persuaded by the arguments filed February 16, 2007 and asserted that while Song does not explicitly disclose an inventory of transportation vehicles within a predefined service area, Heinrich discloses an inventory of vehicles within a predefined service area being close to the RFID transponder to collect data from the vehicle as claimed with the predefined service area being the location of the vehicle and that it would have been obvious to utilize the system of inventory vehicles as taught by Heinrich into the system of Song because it would provide a savings in both time and labor to be able to audit the inventory automatically without the need for physically checking every vehicle.

It is respectfully asserted that not only does Song not explicitly disclose an inventory of transportation vehicles within a predefined service area, Song does not teach or disclose a method for inventory management of a plurality of transportation vehicles as asserted by the Examiner.

The Song reference is not related to inventory management and is in fact related to maintenance records for an individual vehicle and is directed to notifying the operator of the vehicle directly. The teachings of Song are independent of an inventory of vehicles, and are directed to notifying the vehicle's operator of the need for vehicle maintenance, while the vehicle is being operated. The Song reference is not concerned

10064964
U.S.S.N.~~11/134,537~~

5

Docket No. 81046000

with the vehicle's location within a predefined service area. Nor is the Song reference concerned with the time the vehicle leaves and/or enters the predefined service area. Furthermore, according to the teachings of Song, these aspects are irrelevant to the maintenance management system of Song.

It is respectfully asserted that the vehicle maintenance notification taught in Song is significantly different than inventory management as claimed in the present invention and that there would be no reason to define a service area as it relates to the Song reference and therefore, no motivation to combine Song with a reference that teaches a predefined service area. The inventory management of the present invention is directed to stages and destinations during a vehicle delivery process. The maintenance management taught in Song is related to a particular, and singular, vehicle, in motion, that may require maintenance, in order to notify the vehicle's operator of that need. According to the teachings of Song, there is no reason, nor motivation, to define a service area for inventory management, nor to define a service area at all. The fact that the Song reference is directed to the operability of a single vehicle, while it is being driven, should not be extrapolated to the capability of determining an inventory of transportation vehicles as suggested by the Examiner. For example, in the teachings of Song, there is no need, or desire, to communicate a time the vehicle exited and/or entered a predefined service area as suggested by the Examiner, as the Song reference is directed to the vehicle's operational maintenance and not it's location for inventory management purposes. Further, because Song is directed to notifying the vehicle's operator of the maintenance needs of the vehicle, while that vehicle is being operated and is not concerned at all with the vehicle's destination, it cannot be

10064964
U.S.S.N. 11/434,537

6

Docket No. 81046000

suggested that Song also determines a location of a predetermined number of vehicles having predetermined characteristics, including a destination site.

The Song reference is not directed to tracking an inventory of vehicles throughout a series of destinations. The Song reference is merely tracking a maintenance schedule for a vehicle while it is being operated, in order to communicate the maintenance needs to that vehicle's operator, also while the vehicle is in operation.

The Examiner asserted that while Song's vehicle is sometimes in motion, there comes a point in time where this vehicle is parked, and once parked it becomes easier to define a service area for that particular vehicle. However, it is respectfully asserted that because the Song reference does not teach or disclose, nor is it concerned with in any way, the destination of the vehicle being tracked, it does not teach or suggest combination with a reference defining a service area as claimed by the Applicant of the present invention for inventory management. It is respectfully asserted that if the vehicle in Song is placed in park, there is no longer a need for the vehicle's operational maintenance needs to be communicated to the vehicle's operator, as the vehicle is no longer being operated. Further, it is respectfully asserted that the destination where the vehicle is parked is irrelevant to the teachings of Song because Song is directed only to operability and maintenance and is not directed to tracking the vehicle's destination for inventory management. There is no need, according to the teachings of Song, to track the vehicle's destination, location, and/or time of entry and departure for inventory management, and therefore, no motivation to combine the reference with a predefined service area for inventory management.

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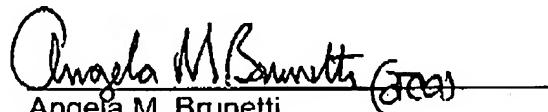
Docket No. 81046000

Another distinction is that Song is directed to an individual vehicle and that vehicle's operator. It is respectfully asserted that Song is not directed to a plurality of vehicles, and therefore provides added support that there is no motivation to apply the teachings of Song to any type of inventory management control.

Therefore, it is respectfully asserted that there is no motivation to combine a reference such as Song, that is directed to vehicle maintenance management only, with a reference that defines a predefined service area for inventory management. It is also respectfully asserted that even if the Song reference were combined with a reference teaching a predefined service area, the combination would not extend to inventory management of a plurality of transportation vehicles as claimed in the present invention because Song is directed to notifying a vehicle's operator of the need for vehicle maintenance and is not directed to a plurality of transportation vehicles.

It is respectfully requested the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 and that a formal Notice of Allowance be issued therefor.

Respectfully submitted,


Angela M. Brunetti (2003)
Reg. No. 41,647

Attorney for Applicant(s)

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Dickinson Wright PLLC
38525 Woodward Avenue, Suite 2000
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-5092
(248) 433-7200